CLAIMS:

1. A method of encoding video data comprising the steps of:

receiving input video data;

determining DCT coefficients for the uncoded video data;

coding the DCT coefficients into a base layer bitstream and a enhancement layer bitstream according to a fine-granular scalability coding; and

converting the base layer bitstream and the enhancement layer bitstream into a plurality of equal priority descriptions.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting the converted descriptions layers over different transmission channels.

3. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of decoding the plurality of equal priority descriptions.

4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the decoding step is performed based on at least one of the plurality of equal priority descriptions.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of equal priority partitions is comprised of partitions generated from the base and enhancement layer bitstreams and a forward error correction (FEC) code according to predetermined criteria.

6. An apparatus for coding an input video comprising:

a memory which stores computer-executable process steps; and

a processor which executes the process steps stored in the memory so as (i) receive a base layer and an enhancement layer that include an input video data encoded according to a fine-granular scalability coding, (ii) to convert the base layer and the enhancement layer into a plurality of equal priority descriptions, (iii) to transmit the converted equal priority descriptions over different transmission channels.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprises means for decoding at least one the plurality of equal priority descriptions.

8. The apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the decoding means is an MPEG-4 decoder.

9. The apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the plurality of equal priority partitions is comprised of partitions generated from the base and enhancement layers and a forward error correction (FEC) code.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the plurality of equal priority partitions is generated from the base and enhancement layers and a forward error correction (FEC) code.

11. A system for processing an input video data, the apparatus comprising:

means for determining DCT coefficients of the input video data;

means for coding the DCT coefficients into a base layer and a enhancement layer that include the input video data according to a fine-granular scalability coding; and

means for converting the base layer and the enhancement layer into a plurality of equal priority descriptions.

12. The system according to Claim 11, further comprising means for transmitting at least one of the plurality of equal priority descriptions layers over different transmission channels.

13. The system according to Claim 11, further comprising means for decoding at least one of the plurality of equal priority descriptions.

14. The system according to Claim 11, wherein the plurality of equal priority partitions is comprised of partitions generated from the base and enhancement layers and a forward error correction (FEC) code according to predetermined criteria.

15. The system according to Claim 13, wherein the decoding means is an MPEG-4 decoder.